

RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION U. S.

ACTS

OF

THE SEVERAL STATES,

Ratifying the Constitution of the United States of America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES,

January 19, 1833.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives cause the several acts of ratification of the Federal Constitution by the State Conventions, with the dates of time and place of the same, to be collated and printed for the use of the members of this House.

Attest: MW. ST. CLAIR CLARKE,
Clerk Ho. Reps. U. S.

UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED,
Friday, September 28, 1787.

PRESENT,—New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and from Maryland, Mr. Ross.

Congress having received the report of the Convention lately assembled in Philadelphia,

Resolved, unanimously, That the said report, with the resolutions and letter accompanying the same, be transmitted to the several Legislatures, in order to be submitted to a Convention of Delegates chosen in each State by the people thereof, in conformity to the resolves of the Convention made and provided in that case.

The States having accordingly passed acts for severally calling Conventions, and the Constitution being submitted to them, the ratifications thereof were transmitted to Congress as follows:

DELAWARE.

We, the deputies of the people of the Delaware State, in Convention met, having taken into our serious consideration the Federal Constitution,

proposed and agreed upon by the deputies of the United States in a General Convention, held at the city of Philadelphia, on the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1787, have approved, assented to, ratified and confirmed, and by these presents do, in virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, for and in behalf of ourselves and our constituents, fully, freely, and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify and confirm the said Constitution.

Done in Convention at Dover, this seventh day of December, in the year aforesaid, and in the year of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In testimony whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

I, Thomas Collins, President of the Delaware State, do hereby certify that the above instrument of writing is a true copy of the original ratification of the Federal Constitution by the Convention of the Delaware State, which original ratification is now in my possession. In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the Delaware State to be hereunto annexed.

THOMAS COLLINS.

PENNSYLVANIA.

In the name of the people of Pennsylvania:

Be it known unto all men, that we, the delegates of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Convention assembled, have assented to, and ratified, and by these presents do, in the name and by the authority of the same people, and for ourselves, assent to, and ratify the foregoing Constitution for the United States of America. Done in Convention, at Philadelphia, the twelfth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, and of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

FREDERICK A. MUHLENBERG,

President.

NEW JERSEY.

In Convention of the State of New Jersey:

Whereas, &c. &c.

Now, be it known, that we, the delegates of the State of New Jersey, chosen by the people thereof for the purposes aforesaid, having maturely deliberated on, and considered the aforesaid proposed Constitution, do hereby, for, and on behalf of the people of the said State of New Jersey, agree to, ratify, and confirm the same, and every part thereof.

Done in Convention by the unanimous consent of the members present, this 18th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

JOHN STEVENS, *President.*

CONNECTICUT.

In the name of the people of the State of Connecticut:

We, the delegates of the people of said State in General Convention assembled, pursuant to an act of the Legislature in October last, have assented to, and ratified, and, by these presents, do assent to, ratify, and adopt the Constitution reported by the Convention of Delegates in Philadelphia, on the 17th day of September, A. D. 1787, for the United States of America.

Done in Convention, at Hartford, this 9th day of January, A. D. 1788. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands.

MATTHEW GRISWOLD, *President.*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In Convention of the Delegates of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February 6, 1788.

The Convention having impartially discussed, and fully considered the Constitution for the United States of America, reported to Congress by the Convention of Delegates from the United States of America, and submitted to us by a resolution of the General Court of the said Commonwealth, passed the 25th day of October last past, and acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Supreme Ruler of the universe in affording the people of the United States, in the course of his providence, an opportunity, deliberately and peaceably, without fraud or surprise, of entering into an explicit and solemn compact with each other, by assenting to, and ratifying, a new Constitution, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity; do, in the name, and in the behalf, of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution for the United States of America, &c. &c. &c.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, at Boston, in the Commonwealth aforesaid, this 7th day of February, A. D. 1788, and in the twelfth year of the independence of the United States of America.

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

WM. CUSHING, *Vice President.*

STATE OF GEORGIA.

In Convention, January the 2d, 1788.

Whereas, &c. &c. &c.

Now, know ye, that we, the delegates of the people of the State of Georgia, in Convention met, pursuant to the resolutions of the Legislature aforesaid, having taken into our serious consideration the said Constitution, have assented to, ratified, and adopted, and, by these presents, do, in virtue of the powers and authority to us given by the people of the said State for that

purpose, for, and in behalf of ourselves and our constituents, fully and entirely assent to, ratify, and adopt the said Constitution.

Done in Convention, at Augusta, in the said State, on the 2d day of January, in the year of our Lord 1788, and of the independence of the United States the twelfth. In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

JOHN WEREAT, President.

MARYLAND.

In Convention of the Delegates of the people of the State of Maryland, April 28, 1788.

We, the delegates of the people of the State of Maryland, having fully considered the Constitution of the United States of America, reported to Congress by the Convention of Deputies from the United States of America, held in Philadelphia, on the 17th day of September, in the year 1787, of which the annexed is a copy, and submitted to us by a resolution of the General Assembly of Maryland, in November session, 1787, do, for ourselves, and in the name, and on the behalf of the people of this State, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

GEORGE PLATER, President.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

In Convention of the people of the State of South Carolina, by their representatives, held in the city of Charleston, on Monday, the 12th day of May, and continued by divers adjournment to Friday, the 23d day of May, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and in the twelfth year of the independence of the United States of America.

The Convention having maturely considered the Constitution, or form of Government reported to Congress by the Convention of Delegates from the United States of America, and submitted to them by a resolution of the Legislature of this State, passed the 17th and 18th days of February last, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to the people of the said United States and their posterity—do, in the name and behalf of the people of this State, hereby assent to, and ratify the said Constitution.

Done in Convention, the 23d day of May, in the year of our Lord 1788, and independence of the United States of America the twelfth.

THOMAS PINCKNEY, President.

JOHN SANDFORD DART, Secretary.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

In Convention of the Delegates of the people of the State of New Hampshire, June the 21st, 1788.

The Convention having impartially discussed, and fully considered the Constitution for the United States of America, reported to Congress by the Convention of Delegates from the United States of America, and submitted to us by a resolution of the General Court of said State, passed the 14th day of December last past, and acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Supreme Ruler of the universe, in affording the people of the United States, in the course of his providence, an opportunity, deliberately and peaceably, without fraud or surprise, of entering into an explicit and solemn compact with each other, by assenting to, and ratifying a new Constitution, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity—do, in the name and behalf of the people of the State of New Hampshire, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution for the United States of America, &c. &c. &c.

JOHN SULLIVAN, *President of the Convention.*

JOHN LANGDON, *President of the State.*

By order:

JOHN CALF, *Secretary of Convention.*

JOSEPH PEARSON, *Secretary of State.*

VIRGINIA, to wit:

We, the delegates of the people of Virginia, duly elected in pursuance of a recommendation from the General Assembly, and now met in Convention, having fully and freely investigated and discussed the proceedings of the Federal Convention, and being prepared as well as the most mature deliberation hath enabled us to decide thereon—do, in the name, and in behalf of the people of Virginia, declare and make known that the powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression, and that every power not granted thereby remains with them, and at their will: that therefore no right of any denomination can be cancelled, abridged, restrained, or modified by the Congress, by the Senate, or House of Representatives, acting in any capacity; by the President, or any department, or officer of the United States; except in those instances in which power is given by the Constitution for those purposes: and that, among other essential rights, the liberty of conscience and of the press cannot be cancelled, abridged, restrained, or modified, by any authority of the United States. With these impressions, with a solemn appeal to the Searcher of Hearts for the purity of our intentions, and under the conviction that whatsoever imperfections may exist in the Constitution, ought rather to be examined in the mode prescribed therein, than to bring the Union into danger by a delay, with a hope of obtaining amendments previous to the ratification—we, the said delegates, in the name, and in behalf of the people of Virginia, do, by these presents, assent to, and ratify the Constitution re-

commended on the 17th day of September, 1787, by the Federal Convention, for the Government of the United States, hereby announcing to all whom it may concern, that the said Constitution is binding upon the said people, according to an authentic copy hereto annexed, in the words following. (See Constitution.)

Done in Convention, this 26th day of June, 1788.

By order of the Convention:

EDM. PENDLETON, *President.*

STATE OF NEW YORK.

We, the delegates of the people of the State of New York, duly elected and met in Convention, having maturely considered the Constitution of the United States of America, agreed to on the 17th day of September, in the year 1787, by the Convention that was assembled at Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (a copy whereof precedes these presents;) and having also seriously and deliberately considered the present situation of the United States, do declare and make known, &c., &c., &c.

Under these impressions, and declaring that the rights aforesaid cannot be abridged or violated, and that the explanations aforesaid are consistent with the said Constitution; and in confidence that the amendments which shall have been proposed to the said Constitution will receive an early and mature consideration, we, the said delegates, in the name and in the behalf of the people of the State of New York, do, by these presents, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution, &c., &c., &c.

Done in Convention, at Poughkeepsie, in the county of Dutchess, in the State of New York, the 26th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1788.

By order of the Convention:

GEORGE CLINTON, *President.*

Attest: JOHN MCKESSON, }
AB. B. BANKER, } *Secretaries.*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In Convention.

Whereas the General Convention which met at Philadelphia in pursuance of a recommendation of Congress, did recommend to the citizens of the United States a Constitution or form of Government, in the following words, namely:

"We the people," &c. [Here follows the Constitution of the United States verbatim.]

Resolved, That this Convention, in behalf the freemen, citizens, and inhabitants of the State of North Carolina, do adopt and ratify the said Constitution and form of Government.

Done in Convention, this 21st day of November, 1789.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON,
President of the Convention.

J. HUNT, }
JAMES TAYLOR, } *Secretaries.*

RHODE ISLAND.

On the 16th of June, 1790, the following ratification, by the State of Rhode Island, was communicated to Congress.

[The Constitution of the United States of America precedes the following ratification.]

Ratification of the Constitution, by the Convention of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

We, the delegates of the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, duly elected, and met in Convention, having maturely considered the Constitution for the United States of America, agreed to on the 17th day of September, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, by the Convention then assembled at Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (a copy whereof precedes these presents;) and having also seriously and deliberately considered the present situation of this State, do declare and make known, &c. &c. &c. &c.

Under these impressions, and declaring that the rights aforesaid cannot be abridged or violated, and that the explanations aforesaid are consistent with the said Constitution, and in confidence that the amendments hereafter mentioned will receive an early and mature consideration, and conformably to the fifth article of said Constitution, speedily become a part thereof. We, the said delegates, in the name and in the behalf of the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do, by these presents, assent to and ratify the said Constitution, &c. &c. &c.

Done in Convention at Newport, in the county of Newport, in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the 29th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1790, and in the fourteenth year of the independence of the United States of America.

By order of the Convention.

DANIEL OWEN, *President.*

Attest:

DANIEL UPDIKE, *Secretary.*

STATE OF VERMONT.

In Convention of the Delegates of the people of the State of Vermont:

Whereas by an act of the Commissioners of the State of New York, done at New York, the seventeenth day of October, in the fifteenth year of the independence of the United States of America, 1790, every impediment, as well on the part of the State of New York, as on the part of the State of Vermont, to the admission of the State of Vermont into the Union of the United States of America, is removed: in full faith and assurance that the same will stand approved and ratified by Congress—

This Convention, having impartially deliberated upon the Constitution of the United States of America, as now established, submitted to us by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, passed October 27th, 1790, do, in virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, fully and entirely approve of, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution; and de-

clare that, immediately from and after this State shall be admitted by the Congress into the Union, and to a full participation of the benefits of the Government now enjoyed by the States in the Union, the same shall be binding on us, and the people of the State of Vermont, for ever.

Done at Bennington, in the county of Bennington, the 10th day of January, in the fifteenth year of the independence of the United States of America, 1790. In testimony whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN, *President.*

We, the delegates of the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby certify, that a Convention, having met in Convention, and considered the Constitution for the United States of America, agreed to on the 17th day of September, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, by the Convention then assembled at Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (a copy whereof precedes these presents) and having also seriously and deliberately considered the present situation of this State, do declare and make known, &c. &c. &c.

Under these impressions and declaring that the rights aforesaid cannot be bridged or violated, and that the explications aforesaid are consistent with the said Constitution, and in consequence that the amendments hereafter mentioned will receive in early and mature consideration, and conformably to the fifth article of said Constitution, speedily become a part thereof. We, the said delegates, in the name and in the behalf of the people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do, by these presents, assent to and ratify the said Constitution, &c. &c. &c.

Done in Convention at Newport, in the county of Newport, in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 1790, and in the fifteenth year of the independence of the United States of America.

By order of the Convention.

DANIEL OWEN, *President.*

Attest:

DANIEL UPTON, *Secretary.*

STATE OF VERMONT.

In Convention of the Delegates of the people of the State of Vermont.

Whereas by an act of the Commissioners of the State of New York, done at New York, the seventeenth day of October, in the fifteenth year of the independence of the United States of America, 1790, every impediment as well on the part of the State of New York as on the part of the State of Vermont, to the admission of the State of Vermont into the Union of the United States of America is removed: in full faith and assurance that the same will more speedily be approved and ratified by Congress.

This Convention, having impartially deliberated upon the Constitution of the United States of America, as now established, submitted to us by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, passed October 27th, 1790, do, in virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, fully and entirely approve of, assent to, and ratify the said Constitution: and de-